

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed October 29, 2009, has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Independent claim 14 has been amended to clarify the patentable aspects thereof and to include, among other features, the features of dependent claims 15 and 18. Claims 15 and 18 have been cancelled. Amendments to claim 14 are supported by, for example, FIGS. 1, 5, and 6 of the application. Claims 16 and 32 have been amended for clarification purposes and to address the objections raised in the Office Action with respect to these claims. Claims 27-29, 34, and 35 have been cancelled from the application without disclaimer or prejudice to their future prosecution. The remaining dependent claims include editorial revisions for consistency purposes. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 14-27 have been objected to because Applicant has failed to underscore the newly added limitation in claim 14.

In making the current claim amendments, the Applicant has used the proper notations for the amendments, including underscoring.

Withdrawal of the above objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 32 have been objected to due to the comma between “sulfide” and “polyvinylidene” at the end of lines 3.

The Applicant is trying to claim the limitations of “polyvinylidene fluoride” and “acetyl copolymer” as separate limitations, and, thus, the “and” between “sulfide” and “polyvinylidene” has been deleted as suggested by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the above objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

In the Office Action, claims 14-16, 18-23, 25, 27, 30, 31, and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doolittle et al. (US 2,672,306). Claims 17, 19-22

(in alternative), 24, 26, 32, 33, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doolittle et al. (US 2,672,306). Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doolittle et al. (US 2,672,306) in view of Marcus et al. (US 5,217,099).

The Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application to allowance, the Applicant has amended independent claim 14 to clarify the patentable aspects thereof and to include, among other features, the features of dependent claims 15 and 18. Since features of claim 18 have been incorporated into claim 14, the rejection over claim 14 will be discussed in terms of the rejection over claim 18, which, in the Office Action, is a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Doolittle et al. (US 2,672,306) in view of Marcus et al. (US 5,217,099).

Claim 14 as amended, recites, among other features, an aircraft system comprising an aircraft including an aircraft cargo storage bay and a roller mounted within the aircraft cargo storage bay, the roller configured for loading, unloading, and placement of cargo packages within the aircraft and for supporting the cargo packages during flight of the aircraft, the roller including a one-piece integral body having a cylindrical shape, the entirety of the body being made solely out of a single piece of polymeric material, said body having a length extending from a first outermost end to a second outermost end and a diameter, the first outermost end of the body defined by a first outwardly protruding portion that protrudes longitudinally from a first intermediate end to the first outermost end thereby defining a first exterior shoulder between the first outermost end and the first intermediate end, the second outermost end of the body defined by a second outwardly protruding portion that protrudes longitudinally from a second intermediate end to the second outermost end thereby defining a second exterior shoulder between the second outermost end and the second intermediate end, said body including an aperture extending longitudinally along and through the center of said body from the first outermost end to the second outermost end, the aperture sized to rotatably receive an axle therethrough, the axle being for mounting the roller within the aircraft cargo storage bay, wherein the roller has a burn rate of less than 4.0 inches per minute.

Neither Doolittle nor Marcus, either alone or within a reasonable combination with each other discloses or suggests each and every feature of claim 14.

In claim 14, an aircraft having a cargo storage bay has been positively recited, wherein the inventive aircraft includes an inventive roller mounted to the cargo storage bay, the roller configured for loading, unloading, and placement of cargo packages within the aircraft and for supporting the cargo packages during flight of the aircraft.

In sharp contrast, Doolittle does not disclose an aircraft with a cargo storage bay wherein the cargo storage bay includes a roller that is configured for loading, unloading, and placement of cargo packages within the aircraft and for supporting the cargo packages during flight of the aircraft, wherein the roller also includes all of the other features recited in claim 14. Doolittle teaches rollers that are a part of a catapult system for launching an aircraft. The rollers in Doolittle are not located within the aircraft, nor do they form any part of the aircraft.

Furthermore, there is absolutely no disclosure in Doolittle of rollers that include a one-piece integral body having a cylindrical shape, the entirety of the body being made solely out of a single piece of polymeric material. It is only discussed in Doolittle (column 6, lines 10-14) that the plurality of aligned idler rollers of the launching ribbon actuator are of Nylon, Neoprene, or the like. There is absolutely no mention that the rollers include a one-piece integral body wherein the entire body of the roller is formed of a single piece of polymeric material. In the cross-sectional views of Doolittle (for example, FIG. 17), the rollers are clearly made out of multiple pieces and do not have one-piece bodies wherein the entirety of the body is solely made out of a single piece of polymeric material.

Thus, for at least the reasons stated above, Doolittle fails to disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claim 14 and claim 14 is patentable over Doolittle for at least this reason.

Moreover, in rejecting claim 18 (now having features incorporated into claim 14), it is stated in the Office Action that Doolittle fails to explicitly teach that the roller ends are shaped to provide a shoulder. Marcus has been cited to remedy this deficiency of Doolittle and it is stated in the Office Action that the recessed ends shown in FIG. 2 of Marcus disclose this feature.

Marcus has been cited for simply disclosing shoulders. However, as recited in claim 14, the shoulders in claim 14 are exterior shoulders defined by first and second outwardly protruding portions that protrude longitudinally from first and second intermediate ends to first and second outermost ends, respectively, of the roller body. Marcus fails to disclose such a configuration. The shoulders disclosed by Marcus are internal shoulders that are formed by the recessed ends of

the roller body. Thus, Marcus fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 14 and even if Marcus was combined with Doolittle, the combination would not result in Applicant's invention of claim 14.

For at least the reasons stated above, claim 14 is patentable over the combination of Doolittle and Marcus.

Withdrawal of the above rejection is respectfully requested with regard to claim 14.

Claims 16, 17, 19-26, and 30-33 depend from and further modify independent claim 14 and are patentable over Doolittle et al. (US 2,672,306) in view of Marcus et al. (US 5,217,099) for at least the same reasons specified above with respect to claim 14.

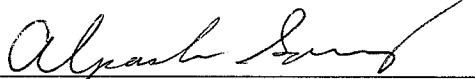
As previously noted, in addition to claims 15 and 18, claims 27-29, 34, and 35 have also been cancelled from the application rendering moot the rejections with respect to these claims.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. The Applicant reserves the right to raise these arguments in the future. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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